**Maine’s Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs**

**Monthly Learning Series**



The mission of Maine CDC’s Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs Program is to improve the health and quality of life for children with special health care needs and their families.

**ECE Consultation for ME: Maine’s Statewide Infant & Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation Program - Rooted in Early Relationships - Growing Together**

September 2, 2025, 3:30-4:30pm

Please Register [Here](https://mainestate.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_O9c9wzVwRl64RNthIIj60w#/registration)

This webinar introduces ECE Consultation For ME, the state’s new Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation program, designed to support the social-emotional well-being of children from birth through age eight. ECE Consultation for ME was created to align with Maine’s strategic priorities for early childhood success, focusing on preventive, relationship-based supports that strengthen the capacity of caregivers, early education professionals, and community partners.

Participants will learn what ECE Consultation for ME offers, how it differs from traditional direct services, and how referrals and collaboration can maximize impact for children and families. The session is designed for a broad audience of early care and education, health, and mental health providers, who play a role in supporting young children.

**Learning Objectives:**

By the end of this webinar, participants will be able to:

1. Explain ECE Consultation for ME’s purpose, scope, and key service components, including consultation supports for early care and education providers and families.
2. Understand how ECE Consultation for ME aligns with Maine’s early childhood strategic goals, promoting resilience, inclusion, and mental health within early learning settings.
3. Identify opportunities for collaboration and referral, ensuring that families and early care professionals can access ECE Consultation for ME to address social-emotional and behavioral concerns before they escalate.

**Melanie** is the ECE Consultation for ME Program Manager with Maine’s Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Child and Family Services, Early Care and Education Division, where she manages a statewide infant and early childhood mental health consultation program that addresses the social-emotional needs of children birth to age eight by offering support, education, and consultation to the adults who teach and care for them. She provides model and programmatic oversight for mental health consultants and state program staff. Her work emphasizes empowering caregivers and educators through consultation, education, and strategic support to improve early childhood mental health outcomes.

She earned dual Master’s degrees from the University of Maine in Public Administration (MPA) and Counselor Education (M.Ed.), complemented by Lean Six Sigma Green Belt and Professional Leadership Certifications. She is also a Licensed Clinical Professional Counselor, Licensed Alcohol and Drug Counselor, and Certified Clinical Supervisor in Maine.

With 25 years of experience in Maine’s social services field, Melanie’s career spans extensive roles in state government and nonprofit sectors focused on children and families. She has worked directly with children, adults, and families across residential, outpatient, in-home, and school-based settings, leveraging evidence-based practices for behavioral health support and supervision. Her comprehensive experience encompasses program management, clinical supervision, and policy development, with a focus on quality improvement, program compliance, and the strategic advancement of Maine’s children’s services.

The Children and Youth with Special Health Care Needs, Health Care Coordinator provides a unique resource for families, providers, and communities. The goal is to assist families and providers in finding services that will help the child or youth acquire optimal health, development, well-being, and the best quality of life.

To learn more please visit us at:

<https://www.maine.gov/dhhs/mecdc/population-health/mch/cshn/>

Email: MCH.CDC@maine.gov

Phone: 207-287-5357

TTY users call Maine relay 711

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